GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS APPLYING TO ALL CRAFT, WHETHER RACING OR NOT

Sailing from GWSC is controlled by the Club and is subject to the Club’s Rules and Byelaws, the Byelaws of Anglian Water and the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea [https://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/e-newsletters/up-to-speed/Pages/understanding-colregs2.aspx].

The decision to open or close the water for sailing is the responsibility of the Coxswain.

The decision to start, cancel, postpone or abandon racing is the responsibility of the Race Officer in consultation with the Coxswain.

The decision on which safety flags (see below) should be hoisted on the fuel shed is the responsibility of the Coxswain.

The helm of the craft is responsible for their personal safety and that of any others on the craft. It is the helm’s decision to sail or not. In making their decision sailors must consider their fitness and that of their crews and craft for the expected weather conditions.

a) Insurance: All craft shall be covered by third-party insurance for claims up to £2 million arising in any one accident. All craft owners shall sign a certificate stating that they have such insurance. New members shall sign this undertaking before they are allocated a berth. Craft whose owners have not lodged this document in the Office may not be launched.

b) Personal Buoyancy: No-one is permitted on the water in any type of craft (dinghies, windsurfers, safety boats, or committee boats) without adequate personal buoyancy. Wet suits and dry suits are not deemed to be adequate buoyancy. Personal buoyancy to Specification BS EN ISO 12402 is advised. Craft carrying persons not wearing buoyancy considered adequate by safety personnel will be required to return to shore immediately. Where class rules permit the use of weight jackets, these must have the provision for immediate removal, and be worn over all other clothing, trapeze harnesses, and buoyancy aids.

c) Boat Buoyancy: Buoyancy chambers or other buoyancy equipment and their fastenings must be maintained at all times in good and effective condition and must comply with any class rules that specify minimum buoyancy requirements. Owners shall sign a certificate to this effect annually. New members shall sign before they are allowed a berth. Boats whose owners have not lodged such a certificate in the Office may not be launched. The Club may ban from the water any boat which they believe does not comply with this rule, and the owner may be required to provide independent evidence that any
imperfections have been rectified before the boat is again launched. These provisions do not apply to keelboat tenders without masts.

d) Safety: The attention of sailors is drawn to the safety recommendations posted around the Club.

- Craft may be launched subject to restrictions indicated by the flag(s) displayed on the pole by the fuel shed. These flags are depicted here and on the website at https://www.grafham.org/sailing-racing/safety-on-the-water.html

### Club Safety Flags

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
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| ![Red Flag](image) | No launching | For those afloat:  
With a single long sound from shore, the lake is closing in 30 minutes and you must be onshore within this period  
With repeated sounds, come ashore immediately |
| ![Red and Yellow Flag](image) | Closed with exception(s) | See the monitor or noticeboard in the Cafe about the exception(s) |
| ![Yellow Flag](image) | Sailing without restriction with reactive safety cover* | Water is not necessarily being watched  
A patrol boat is on the slip or on the water |
| ![Green Flag](image) | Sailing without restriction with safety cover | A patrol boat is on the water with driver and crew available |
| ![Red and Black Flag](image) | Windsurfers and experienced boat sailors only (wind at 10-27 kt) | Experienced means that you can return your boat and return to the Club’s shore unaided |
| ![Blue and White Triangle](image) | Open: wet or dry suit must be worn by sailors (except for those on cruisers) | 1st November to 31st March, and when the water temperature is less than 5°C |
| ![Green and White Triangle](image) | Open: blue-green algae present | Wear suitable protection and wash after sailing |

**Notes**
- Flags are displayed alone or with other flag(s) on the pole next to the Coxsain’s slipway.
- A single, short sound signal from shore means the flag has been changed.
- You also need to look at the map that shows the fixed buoys and the no-sailing areas.
- For your safety, you are advised to stay within sight of the Coxsain’s lookout and wear a brightly coloured or fluorescent hat.

*Reactive safety cover*

- There is not necessarily anyone watching the water but someone is on site to assist if called.
- You are advised to borrow a VHF handheld from the Coxsain to radio for help.

**Temporary safety cover**

- The water is under observation by staff or volunteers.
- Particularly in extreme conditions, patrol-boat assistance might be limited to what is practicable.
• Water users have a responsibility to be vigilant at all times, to assist others in difficulties when this does not endanger themselves or their crews, and to take any necessary action to avoid close contact and collisions with other craft. This is particularly important when sailing high-performance craft that sail at significantly faster speeds than most club boats. Failure to do so on repeated occasions may result in exclusion from club sailing.
• Members and visitors sailing must comply with requests and advice from the safety boat service—eg, when to abandon their craft and be taken aboard a safety boat.
• The first priority of a safety boat is to rescue and return to the club premises sailors judged to be in danger, whether injured, sick, exhausted, or cold. Craft will be retrieved and returned to the club when, and if, practicable.
• Boats shall keep clear of a safety boat in close attendance to a craft or competitor in difficulty.

e) Permitted Sailing Times: All sailing shall cease 60 minutes before sunset or at such times defined by the Club. A list of permitted sailing times is displayed on the Club’s website. The closing time is also displayed on the gate hut.

A long sound signal will be made from shore 30 minutes before closure of the water (and the red flag will be displayed) and a further long sound signal will be made to signify the final closure of the water. The Clubhouse and grounds will be locked 30 minutes after the water closes.

f) Sailing Area: Restrictions on sailing in certain areas are shown in a map available on the Club’s website and from the Office.

g) Racing areas may be indicated on a map of the lake displayed near the signing-on sheets in the Cafe. Boats not racing shall keep clear of these area(s).

h) Sailing boats shall keep clear of boats actively engaged in fishing, avoiding an area extending 20 metres in any direction from them.

i) Stand Up Paddle-boarding is permissible in accordance with the following:

• Between 1 April and 30 September
• Within an area defined as follows: Western club boundary – marks W – M – K – E – Eastern Club Boundary
• Wind strength below 13 knots